



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

November 10, 2003

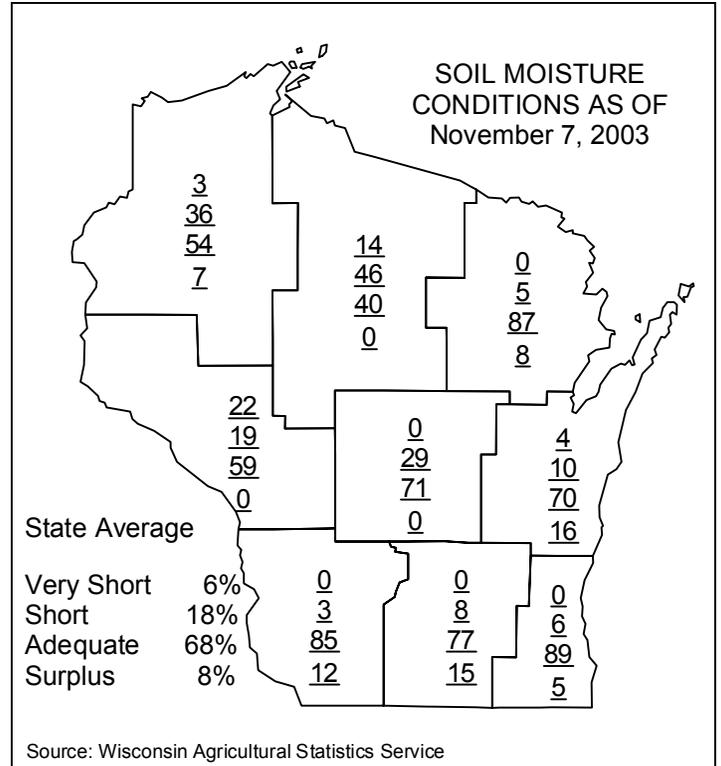
Vol. 03, No. 32

Rains Replenish Soil Moisture

The early part of the week saw steady rains across much of the state, and some snow. The precipitation was heaviest in the south and west, where farmers needed to boost soil moisture levels. Most of the state saw 1.0-2.5 inches over a few days, with some areas receiving as much as 5.0 inches of rain. Soils soaked up the moisture quickly, and combines were back in action after a minimal delay. There was an average of 3.7 days suitable for fieldwork. Harvest progress is ahead of schedule, and the rain delay was welcomed. Last week saw the first taste of winter as temperatures took a nose dive. Temperatures for the week were 4 to 9 degrees below normal. Many areas saw single digit lows and the north saw ground frost levels of a few inches. Topsoil moisture ratings averaged 6% very short, 18% short, 68% adequate, and 8% surplus. The rains did a lot to rejuvenate low moisture ratings for the winter. Year-to-date moisture levels remain behind normal in most parts of the state, although these latest rains did a lot to help reserves and encourage producers.

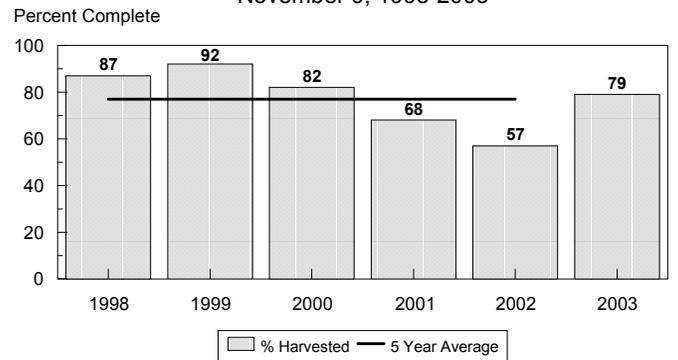
The **soybean** harvest is essentially finished for the season. Most areas report significant yield loss when compared to a normal season. The dry weather during the grain fill period was blamed for the losses. Yield ranges from 5-50 bushels per acre were reported. Soil type and timeliness of rains had a lot to do with the varying yields. Overall, many farmers reported yields in the low to mid-20's. The rains held up the **corn** harvest, but combines were back by mid-week, and harvest advanced to 79% complete. This is ahead of both last year's 57% and the 5-year average of 77%. The cool weather has kept corn moisture levels from dropping much, but farmers are hurrying to get the crop out of the field. Lodging may be a problem in some areas. Corn yields are a pleasant surprise to many producers, who worried that the dry season may have produced low yields. Fields on lighter soils yielded significantly lower, but those crops on the heavier soils reported good yields.

The added soil moisture from the last two weeks improved conditions for **fall tillage**. The dry soils soaked up most of the moisture, and farmers were able to continue with fall operations. Tillage completed for the fall reached 54%, well ahead of both last year's 30% and the 5-year average of 47%. The far northern areas of the state saw snow and frozen ground conditions that limited activity. Application of anhydrous ammonia was reported in Trempealeau County. Producers continue with stacking of soybean and corn fodder to add to short forage and bedding supplies in some areas. Other late season activities include moving hay bales and manure application.



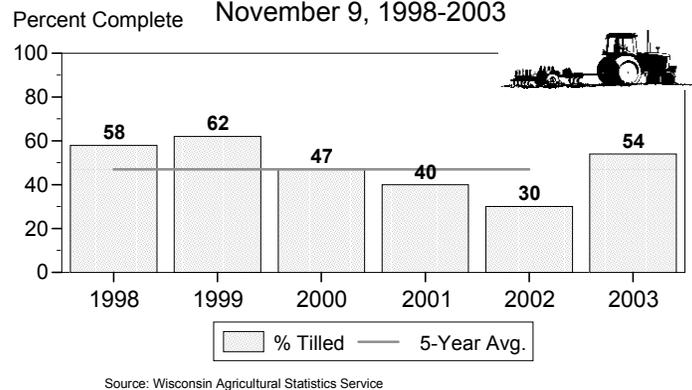
Corn Harvested

Yearly Averages for Wisconsin
November 9, 1998-2003



Fall Tillage Completed

Yearly Averages for Wisconsin
November 9, 1998-2003



Wisconsin Crop Progress, November 9, 2003

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn for grain harvested	74	90	55	77	84	78	88	78	78	79	57	77
Fall tillage completed	55	66	53	47	70	66	47	46	46	54	30	47

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: Most of the corn has been harvested, with yields better than expected. We could use more rain to replenish soil moisture.

BURNETT-R.B.: Both corn and soybeans yields running about 50 percent of last year; good on low ground where it had not been too wet. On sandy and high ground, small ears and lots of cobs were almost nothing. Soybeans are about the same. Hay is short in some places with some just poor quality.

MARATHON-M.K.: Most of the corn is harvested, and it is not a big crop-yielding 100 bushels per acre. Lots of farmers are short on feed. Hay and haylage are short crops.

PRICE-M.P.: Snowed all day Monday. We still have a white covering on the fields. All in all, it was a good year for crops. We could have used more rain, but we did manage to get all our hay made without rain on it, so that was nice.

SHAWANO-B.R.: As much as two inches of rain fell early last week causing major harvesting problems in some fields. Corn moisture is still running between 20 to 25 percent.

PEPIN-H.R.: Corn crop in our area is being finished up. Yields have been variable according to type of soil. Some corn in our area on the heavy, lower soils have better yields than ever-200 bushels per acre. Sandy soils are just the opposite. Most lighter soils were chopped for silage, and some just chopped back on the ground, round baled, or squares. Soybeans were at a bigger loss over all. Manure is being hauled, plus fieldwork.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Corn is yielding near normal. Soybeans yielding below normal. Winter wheat is growing well. Recent rains have restored some soil moisture.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Due to dry conditions in August, soybeans only yielded about 50 percent of normal. Corn on sandy soil yielded about 50 percent normal on sandy soil and near normal on heavier soil. Hay yields were not very good due to winter damage and dry weather.

OUTAGAMIE-K.J.: Corn yields have been exceptional for many. In talking with producers, many have not had any trouble getting past the 160 plus bushels per acre and some have joined the elite 200 bushels per acre club. Soybean yields have been more

average, but many producers are happy to have gotten what they did. Fall tillage is in full swing, with only the cold temperatures hardening the topsoil, preventing farmers from accomplishing more.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Corn and soybean yields vary so much depending on who got rain at the right time. Some farmers in our county have zero percent yields for grain corn.

RICHLAND-S.K.: The corn harvest is running about 140 bushels per acre on the average, which is much higher than anticipated. The yields were far below last year's high yields. The soybean crop saw small beans and very low yields. Our average was in the 25 to 30 bushel per acre range. A year ago we were well over 50 bushels per acre. Last week's rain brought all field work to a halt. It will be a few days before fall plowing will continue. Surprisingly, many of the stream bottoms, which are usually the last to be worked up and planted in the spring, are already plowed, this is very uncommon.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Fieldwork has just started, as the fields were weedy. Corn yields still vary a lot within the same fields. Yields of corn were from 90 to 220 bushels per acre. Corn moisture is not coming down very fast yet.

ROCK-C.O.: Things are looking great. Winter wheat really picked up after the week's rain. Some corn has lodged after the rains, as stalk strength was compromised. Once things dry up, it will be race for the tillage.

WALWORTH-E.P.: A lot of farmers had soybean problems. Some sprayed a couple of times for bugs. Corn was a surprise, with good to excellent yields. Winter wheat looks good.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Winter wheat looks good. This year was a very poor growing season.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on November 9, 2003

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation			
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to Nov. 1	Mar. 1 to Nov. 1 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	35	22	47	7	28	-9	2902	2574	0.35	3.76	-2.72	21.59
Green Bay	38	28	46	11	33	-6	2488	2433	1.52	6.61	0.71	27.75
La Crosse	38	25	46	10	32	-9	3200	2923	1.06	4.22	-1.89	21.08
Madison	41	29	52	12	35	-5	2834	2884	4.99	10.97	5.11	27.44
Milwaukee	45	33	67	18	39	-4	2679	n.a.	2.30	5.75	-0.71	18.97

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. *Normal based on 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.